



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Photos from today's award presentation are available to download
from the district's Web site at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html*

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

**U.S. ATTORNEY PRESENTS CRYSTAL KIPPER & ALI KEMP
MEMORIAL AWARD TO TODD GRAVES**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that Todd P. Graves was honored today as the recipient of the Crystal Kipper & Ali Kemp Memorial Award.

The Crystal Kipper & Ali Kemp Memorial Award is presented every year during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which marks a special observance on behalf of all victims of crime. The Crystal Kipper & Ali Kemp Memorial Award, created in 2004, is presented in recognition of efforts taken to stop those who would harm or exploit youth.

"We are especially pleased this year to present the Crystal Kipper & Ali Kemp Memorial Award to former U.S. Attorney Todd Graves in recognition of his work on behalf of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens," Schlozman said. "Preventing child exploitation was the highest local priority of the U.S. Attorney's Office during his tenure, and his laudable commitment resulted in significant achievements."

As the former U.S. Attorney, Graves was instrumental in launching several initiatives at both the local and national level to target Internet crimes against children. As a result, the Western District of Missouri was not only in the forefront on this issue, but has become a national leader in prosecuting child exploitation crimes. With a record number of child exploitation cases filed in 2005, the district ranks sixth nationally among the 93 federal districts – prosecuting more child exploitation cases than any district east of the Rocky Mountains.

Graves launched the district's Computer Crimes and Child Exploitation Unit to focus on

charges related to child pornography, enticing a minor to engage in illicit sexual activity, distributing obscenity to a minor, or sexual abuse of a child. Prior to this unit, the district averaged about a dozen child exploitation cases per year. That tripled in the unit's first full year, with 36 cases filed in 2004 and 42 child exploitation cases filed in 2005.

Graves also was involved in bringing a state-of-the-art computer forensics laboratory to Kansas City. The Heart of America Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, which began operating in 2003, is one of only 11 in the nation and provides additional cutting-edge resources for investigators and prosecutors.

Graves served as co-chair of the U.S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Working Group and was active with the Cyber Crimes Task Force and the Metro Area Child Exploitation Task Force in Kansas City. Graves worked closely with the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section and Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice in order to take advantage of additional federal resources. Partnering with local authorities, such as the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and Prosecutor's Office and the Boone County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and Prosecutor's Office, has enhanced the ability of the U.S. Attorney's Office to stay tuned into the many working investigations being managed within the district.

"In recognition of his laudable work on behalf of all victims of crime, I would like to personally thank Todd Graves," Schlozman said, "and present him with the third annual Crystal Kipper & Ali Kemp Memorial Award."

The Crystal Kipper & Ali Kemp Memorial Award

The third annual award honors two young crime victims whose deaths profoundly touched many in the Western District of Missouri.

* Crystal Kipper was an 18-year-old Gladstone, Mo., resident who was murdered after her car broke down on Interstate 29, just north of Platte City, on Feb. 24, 1997. Law enforcement officials identified John E. Williams as the primary suspect after he was arrested in a separate case, for which he was later convicted. Graves, who was then Platte County Prosecuting Attorney, was preparing to file first-degree murder charges; however, Williams committed suicide while in custody.

* Ali Kemp was a 19-year-old Blue Valley North High School graduate who was murdered on June 18, 2002, while she worked at the Foxborough neighborhood swimming pool in Leawood, Kan.

The parents of Kipper and Kemp participated in today's presentation of the Crystal Kipper & Ali Kemp Memorial Award.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html